

Remarks

The Office Action mailed September 5, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and the following response has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-32 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-32 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,722,176 to Cerrano, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Cerrano") in view of U.S. Patent 4,842,249 to Weigand (hereinafter referred to as "Weigand") is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that the rejection of Claims 1-13 is improper. Specifically, the present application is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority to Cerrano. Accordingly, Cerrano cannot be cited as prior art in view of the present application. Further, Applicant submits that Weigand, considered alone, does not describe the present invention. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-13 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 14-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cerrano in view of Weigand is respectfully traversed.

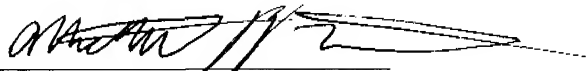
As set forth above, Cerrano cannot be cited as prior art in view of the present application. Further, as set forth above, Weigand, considered alone, does not describe the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 14-25 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 26-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cerrano in view of Weigand is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, Cerrano cannot be cited as prior art in view of the present application. Further, as set forth above, Weigand, considered alone, does not describe the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 26-32 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. A. Leinauer", written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. A. Leinauer
Registration No. 55,795
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070